

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (currently amended) A bioavailable cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, which comprises:

- (a) a freeze-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex in a molar ratio of between about 0.5:1 and 10:1; ~~and~~
- ~~(b) a vegetable oil.~~

Claims 2-4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 1, wherein said cyclodextrin is one or more of  $\alpha$ -cyclodextrin,  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin,  $\gamma$ -cyclodextrin, or HP- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 1, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The improved bioavailable complex of claim 5, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claims 8-10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (currently amended) A method for improving the bioavailability of a cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex, for animal ingestion, the improvement which comprises the steps of:

- (a) forming a cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex; and
- (b) freezing drying said cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex to form a freeze-dried cyclodextrin complex having improved bioavailability compared to a spray-dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex;
- ~~(c) blending said freeze dried cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex with a vegetable oil;~~  
~~and~~
- ~~(d) incorporating said blend into a soft gelatin capsule.~~

Claims 12-14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said cyclodextrin is one or more of  $\alpha$ -cyclodextrin,  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin,  $\gamma$ -cyclodextrin, or HP- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The improved method of claim 15, wherein said carotenoid is one or more of lycopene, lutein, or zeaxanthin.

Claim 18. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (currently amended) The improved method of claim 11, wherein said cyclodextrin/carotenoid complex is made for human ingestion.

Claim 20. (cancelled)